CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for retrieving data distributed across a plurality of storage devices, the system comprising:

a plurality of processors, wherein upon receipt of a request for retrieving data, a processor is designated for handling the request; and

a switch arranged between the processors and the storage devices, wherein the switch independently routes a request for retrieving data from the designated processor directly to the storage devices containing the requested data based on directory information obtained by the processor, and independently routes responses from the storage devices directly to the designated processor based on the directory information obtained by the processor, and wherein the data comprises video stream data.

2.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a resource manager for designating a processor to handle a request, based on the load on each processor.

3.   (Cancelled).

4.   (Original) The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the processor obtains the directory information from the storage devices.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one high speed network connected to the storage devices and arranged between the switch and the storage devices.

6.   (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the switch accommodates a plurality of high speed networks and connected storage devices.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the high speed network is a fiber channel network, a Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) network, or an Ethernet network.

8.   (Cancelled).

9.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the storage devices are disk drives.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the data is stored in a Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks (RAID) format among the disk drives.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a high speed network for delivering the retrieved data from the designated processor to a client device.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the high speed network is an Ethernet network, an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network, a Moving Pictures Expert Group (MPEG) 2 Transport network, a Quadrature Amplitude Modulated (QAM) cable television network, a Digital Subscriber Loop (DSL) network, a Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) network, or a Digital Video Broadcasting – Asynchronous Serial Interface (DVB-ASI) network.

13.   (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving data distributed across a plurality of storage devices, the method comprising the steps of:

        receiving a request for retrieving data, wherein the data comprises video stream data;

        designating a processor for handling the request;

        forwarding the request directly from the designated processor to the storage devices containing the data via a switch; and

        returning responses from the storage devices directly to the designated processor via the switch, wherein the switch uses directory information obtained by the processor to independently routes route the request for retrieving data and the responses between the storage devices and the processor.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of designating a processor includes performing load balancing on the processors and designating a processor based on the load balancing.

15.   (Cancelled).

16.   (Original) The method of claim [[15]] 13, wherein the processor obtains the directory information from the storage devices.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the request is forwarded from the processor to the storage devices via at least one high speed network connected to the storage devices.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the switch accommodates a plurality of high speed networks and connected storage devices.

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19.　　(Original)　The method of claim 17, wherein the high speed network is a fiber channel network, a Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) network, or an Ethernet network.

20.　　(Cancelled).

21.　　(Original)　The method of claim 13, wherein the storage devices are disk drives.

22.　　(Original)　The method of claim 21, wherein the data is stored in a Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks (RAID) format among the disk drives.

23.　　(Original)　The method of claim 13, further comprising delivering the retrieved data from the designated processor to a client device via a high speed network.

24.　　(Original)　The method of claim 23, wherein the high speed network is an Ethernet network, an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network, a Moving Pictures Expert Group (MPEG) 2 Transport network, a Quadrature Amplitude Modulated (QAM) cable television network, a Digital Subscriber Loop (DSL) network, a Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) network, or a Digital Video Broadcasting – Asynchronous Serial Interface (DVB-ASI) network.

25-52　(Cancelled).

53.　　(New) The system of claim 1, wherein the directory information comprises an amount of the data to be stored.

54.　　(New) The method of claim 16, wherein the directory information comprises an amount of the data to be stored.